IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for manipulating and dispensing multiple filaments, comprising:

at least three plates each having at least one machined hole of a predetermined diameter dimensioned to accept a filament, wherein the at least three plates are configured to adjustably align to one another, and at least one of the at least three plates may be shifted in a horizontal direction with regard to the remaining plates to secure the multiple filaments in the device, at least one of the three plates having holes having a chamfered surface at a top or bottom thereof; and

a holding mechanism configured to orient and support the at least three plates.

2. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein [the at least one] each machined hole is configured to permit unrestricted passage of a [plurality of filaments] filament in a vertical direction.

3. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the plurality of filaments are capillary tubes.

4. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the plurality of filaments are optical fibers.

5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the plurality of filaments are light guiding capillary tubing.

6. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein a plate pattern of the at least three plates corresponds to one of a 96, 384 and 1536 well plate design pattern.

7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the holding mechanism comprises:

at least one tension device configured to actuate at least one of the at least three plates into one of a locked and unlocked position; and

holder means configured to secure the at least three plates into the device.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 7, wherein the at least one tension device is adjustable.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for manipulating and dispensing filaments, comprising:

loading a plurality of filaments in machined holes of a device having at least three plates;

shifting at least one of the at least three plates in a horizontal direction with respect to the remaining plates to secure the plurality of filaments into the device; and

manipulating the plurality of filaments and the device to permit contact by the secured filaments with a sample of an analytical application thereby drawing the sample into the filament or adhering the sample to the filament.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

analyzing the samples of the analytical application; and

unloading the plurality of filaments from the device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein analyzing the samples includes at least one of transferring and dispensing the samples of the analytical application from the filament.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein unloading the plurality of filaments includes shifting at least one plate in a horizontal direction with respect to the remaining plates to release the plurality of filaments from the device.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein unloading the plurality of filaments further includes one of disposing of the plurality of filaments and cleaning the plurality of filaments for re-use.